

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US01/06136

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7): A61F 2/44

US CL : 623/17.12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 623/17.12, 17.11, 17.18, 606/192

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

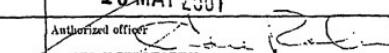
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EAST

search terms: fluid, liquid, membrane, fill tube, vertebrae, spine, elastic

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,716,416 A (Lin) 10 February 1998, Figs. 1B, 4A-E, col. 2, lines 54-57, col. 3, lines 3-8, 10-14.	1-3, 5, 6, 9-13, 16, 18, 19, 25, 26
X	US 5,171,280 A (Baumgartner) 15 December 1992, col. 1, lines 57-60, col. 2, lines 53-55 and col. 3, lines 40-45, col. 4, lines 30-33.	1-3, 5, 7, 12-, 15, 16, 18, 25
X	US 5,827,289 A (Reiley et al) 27 October 1998, col. 4, line 65, col. 5, lines 4, 23-50, Fig. 4.	1, 2, 4-8, 12, 13, 17-26
Y		— 14, 27

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	<input type="checkbox"/>	See patent family annex.
* "A"	Special categories of cited documents document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
* "B"	earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
* "C"	document which may throw doubt on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
* "D"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"Z"	document number of the same patent family
* "E"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		
Date of the actual completion of the international search		Date of mailing of the international search report	
23 APRIL 2001		16 MAY 2001	
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230		Authorized officer  BRIAN PELLEGRINO Telephone No. (703) 306-0809	

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,961,554 A (Janson et al) 5 October 1999, Figs. 2, 3, 9C, 9E, 9I, col. 3, lines 51-57, col. 5, lines 21-27, 54-55.	1, 2, 6, 11, 12, 13, 15, 25, 26